'Extension of Speed Post Service to more Countries

*235. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER. Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose "to extend speed post service to more countries; and

(b) if so, what are the names of the countries which are likely to be covered by this service?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) The establishment of Speed Post links with more countries is a continuous process. Proposals fo'r the establishment of these links are received from lOUher Postal Adfmihia(trationsl., Each case is examined with reference to the terms and conditions offered, traffic potential etc. and appropriate decisions are taken.

(b) Covered by (a) above.

धूम्रपान न करने वाले के लिये विमानों में सीटों का आरक्षण

*236. **डा० रत्नाकर पाण्डेय :** क्या **नागर विमानन** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि "लुफ्तहंस" विमान सेवा ने 70 प्रतिशत स्थान धूम्रपान न करने वाले यात्रियों के लिए आरक्षित किए हैं ; और

(ख) क्या सरकार अपनी विमान सेवाओं में भी इसी के अनरूप कार्यवाही करने का विचार कर रही है ?

नागर विमानन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री तथा पर्यटन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री जगदीश टाईटलर) : (क) लुफ्थांसा द्वारा दी गई सूचना के अनसार लुफ्थांसा को सीट क्षमता का औसतन 70 प्रतिशत धूम्रपान न करने वालों को आवंटित किया जाता है ।

(ख) जबकि डोर्नियर विमान में धूम्रपान निषेध है हमारी एयरलाइनों के अन्य विमानों में धूम्रपान न करने वालों के लिए सीटों का अलग-अलग प्रतिशत आरक्षित है ।

AIDS Surveillance Centres in States

*237. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI K. GOPALAN;

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of AIDS surveillance centres .set up in different States;

(b) the number of AIDS cases detected by each surveillance centre in each State;

(c) what preventive measures have been taken by Government to check the spread °f the dreaded disease; and

(d) whether it is a fact that some of the AIDS patients were allowed to leave the protective homes where they were lodged in the past; and if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

35. *Surveillance Centres have been estab lished in States/Union Territories, as under*

Name of the State/U.T.	No. of Surveillance Centres established
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	3

	2
Madhya Pradesh	3
Maharashtra	5
Tamil Nadu	5
Uttar Pradesh	2
West Bengal	2
Delhi	4
Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala, Karnataka, Manipur, Orissa, Pondicherry and Chardigarh	11 One each in each State/U.T.
TOTAL	35

13 cases of AIDS have been detected so far, out of which 9 persons are of Indian origin and 4 foreigners comprising of 2 US nationals and 2 Swiss nationals. These cases have 'been detected by Surveillance centres in Maharashtra (2) Andhra Pradesh (1), Gujarat (1), UP. (1); J & K (1); Punjab (2), Tamil Nadu (1), Rajas-than (1) and Delhi (3).

The following steps are being taken by the Government;

1. A Cell has been established in the Directorate General of Health Services to coordinate AIDS Control activity in the country.

2. 35 Surveillance centres have been established in the country to screen high risk group.

3. All these centres have been provided with diagnostic reagents and equipment package have also been provided to most of them.

4. Restrictions have been imposed for import of blood and blood products without AIDS clearance certificate.

5. All the State Health authorities/ hospitals/STD clinics have been alerted to be vigi'ant.

6. All the blood banks have been instructed to screen the professional blood donors.

7. All the State Health authorities have been advised to ensure strict sterilisation practices in hospitals and clinics and to use pre-sterilised disposable syringes and needles as far as possible.

8. Guidelines have been sent to all the State Health authorities for health care personnel.

9. All the mass media channels have been involved in educating the people on AIDS its nature, transmission and prevention.

10. Foreigners other than those working in ^Missions including foreign students likely to stay in India for more than one year will be required to undergo AIDS test on arrival. However, foreign students who are already in India when admission is sought will not be required to undergo AIDS test. •

No cases of AIDS were lodged in protective homes. However, persons detained in the vigilance and remand homes are considered to be belonging to high risk group for AIDS. On screening of the high risk groups as per the plan of action for AIDS control activities several women in the remand homes in Tamil Nadu were found positive for AIDS.